

# ACCIDENTAL TAUTONYMS

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Whether you call them repeaters, double-ups, reduplications, or technically, tautonyms, words like **FROUFROU**, **HINAHINA** and **GUITGUIT** are fascinating. From **ATLATL** to **ZOOZOO**, and **KAVAKAVA** to **TUCUTUCU**, from **DIVIDIVI** to **QUINAQUINA**, and **RIRORIRO** to **CHIUICHUI**, they all catch your eye.

My favorite tautonyms are the 'accidental' repeaters, words such as **TESTES**, **PALPAL**, **VALVAL**, **SESSES** and the lovely **HOTSHOTS** that are 'visual' but not 'aural' doubles.

Actually, in some compound examples the two halves are pronounced almost identically. For instance, with a word like **LIPSLIPS** there is very little difference whether it is LIP + SLIPS or LIPS + LIPS.

Here is a small collection of these intriguing 'accidental' tautonyms. Four-letter examples like **ANAN**, **ISIS**, **MEME** and **iTIT** (a musical breast implant for women who are sick of men staring at their breasts and not listening to them) have not been included, nor have words like **BERBER**, **MURMUR** and **TARTAR**.

Those with no source shown are personal coinages. I'm sure readers can add to this list.

## References

EDD English Dialect Dictionary, Joseph Wright, 1970 ed.

Net Internet (using Google search program)

OED Oxford English Dictionary, 2nd ed., 1989

UD Urban Dictionary [[www.urbandictionary.com](http://www.urbandictionary.com)] (Net)]

Web2 Webster's New International Dictionary, 2nd ed., 1961

**AGASAGAS** novels typically focusing on middle class families in British country houses (hyphenated in the *Oxford Dictionary of New Words*, 1971).

'The best-selling **Agasaga** author - still glamorous at 61 - was gloomily revising her target.'

[[www.dailymail.com](http://www.dailymail.com), Yes, every little helps at Tresco's, 25 Jan 2004 (Net)]

**ANTICANTIC** opposed to something being 'cantic' (slanted).

**CANSCANS** images from a scanner on the production line at a canning plant; x-rays of the buttocks (slang).

**CAPECAPES** views of or from a cape.

'Miss Hughes, a colonist of Provincetown, has assembled a group of landscapes of Cape Cod - **capescapes**.' [*Arts* magazine, 1935, p34]

**CIDERCIDER** one who commits **cidercide**, suicide by drowning in a vat of cider. Compare **sewercide**, death by falling in a sewer, and **suicider**, one who commits suicide.

**COOPSCOOPS** implements for scooping up droppings from a (chicken, etc.) coop.

**CREWSCREWS** multiple coerced acts of sexual intercourse with one woman by members of a crew, compare **gangscrow** (slang).

**CUFFSCUFFS** scuff marks on the cuffs of sleeves or trouser legs.

**DEEDEE** one to whom something is deeded, or for whom a deed is done.

'The person they had done the deed for, the **deedee**, spun a wheel with a cash amount on it.'

[[sting.spsu.edu](http://sting.spsu.edu), The Sting Online, The Histories that Matter: Game Shows, The Wheel of Fortune, 22 Aug 2005 (Net)]

**ENTENT** an old form of 'intent'. [OED]

**EXTEXT** a text message from an ex-boyfriend, ex-girlfriend, ex-wife, etc. [UD]

**EXTRADEXTRAD** of writing, beyond the 'dextrad', that which progresses from left to right.

**HACKSHACKS** slang for hospitals (**hack shack** in online 'Surf Dictionary', [www.mintsurfer.com](http://www.mintsurfer.com) ).

'Are you sure you don't need to go to the **hackshack**?' [www.veritaserum.com, Forums, Everything Harry Potter - Book 7, Movie 5 News, Rumors, 4 Feb 2008 (Net)]

**HAGSHAGS** ugly women seen purely as sex objects (British slang).

'She...has shifted from being a faghag to a **hagshag**.' [forums.thestranger.com, Book about Madonna's life, 19 Mar 2007 (Net)]

**HAWSHAW** people with the surname **Hawshaw**, which appears three times in U.S. telephone books. [Net]

**HESHES** pl. of **hesh**, a male homosexual. [*Cassell Dictionary of Slang*, Jonathon Green, 1998]

**HIPSHIPS** pl. of **hipship**, the state of being 'hip' or cool, trendiness (compare 'hardship').

**HOPSHOPS** shops selling home brewing supplies.

'The Grein raid in Chicago was the first move under what Commissioner Doran claimed as a nation-wide drive on **hopshops**.' [*Time* magazine, Bottles & Barrels, 19 May 1930]

**INTERINTER** to bury in-between (other bodies).

**INTERSINTERS** of powdered metals, while interlaid, makes cohesive by the combined action of heat and pressure (sinters).

**INTINT** the name of various glass and hair tinting enterprises. [Net]

**KIDSKIDS** flat objects used by children to skid down slopes.

'There are loads of decent slopes, which will be perfect for us to go skidding down on the **Kidskid**.' [www.itsmymarket.com, Norfolk Single Dad, July 2007 (Net)]

**KILLSKILLS** skills used by snipers, soldiers, hitmen, etc., to take out a given target in a single move.

'The gunslinger's **killskills** sent shivers through Fall Dog's spine - he had taken out both rider and horse in a single shot.' [UD]

**KINKIN** of a cough: choking, convulsive, 'kinking'. [EDD]

**LACKSLACKS** a joky name for someone not wearing pants, e.g. Dr **Lackslacks** (the Red Guy) in 'Cow and Chicken', an American animated TV series. [Net]

**LIMESLIMES** slimy green Halloween mini-cocktails.

'**Limeslime** eyeball jello shooter, with lichee-red maraschino eyeball floating in it.' [www.eatertainment.com, Eyeball Shooter, 2008 (Net)]

**LINGLING** fastening with shoemakers' thread (linge). [*Chambers's Scots Dictionary*, A Warrack, 1952]

**LIPSLIPS** slips of the lips, similar to slips of the tongue.

'How many more opportunities for "**lipslips**" are bound to occur on the parts of all the posturers for the White House.' [www.odwyerpr.com, Honick: Bombing Obama, 14 Feb 2007 (Net)]

**MYTHSMYTHS** old form of 'mythsmiths', myth-makers.

'I am a **Mythsmyth** and the future starts now.' [www.mythsmyth.com, Myth No More, 21 Jun 2007 (Net)]

**NITENITE** a resident of Niten, Indonesia.

**NONANONA** not belonging to the Anona genus of tropical plants.

**PANSPANS** West Indian jasmine shrubs that grow as big as apple trees, in Scottish poet James Grainger's major work 'The Sugarcane' (1764).

'That town, embowered in the different shade, of tamarinds, **panspans**, and papaws,...'

[*Caribbeana: an Anthology of English Literature in the West Indies*, 1657-1777, T W Krise, 1999]

**PEAKSPEAKS** different kinds of **Peakspeak**, language from the TV show 'Twin Peaks'.

'**Peakspeak** (lexicons of language spoken on the show, favorite quotations) - was heard daily at office and at school.' [*Full of Secrets: Critical Approaches to Twin Peaks*, David Lavery, 1995, p7]

**PHOSPHOS** short for '**Phospho** sodas', over the counter saline laxatives.

'The **phospho** is salty and the strong OJ disguises the taste pretty well.'

[[www.healthboards.com](http://www.healthboards.com), The night before a colonoscopy, 12 May 2006 (Net)]

**POLYPOLY** a market condition characterized by the fewness of sellers where this has a direct effect on prices. [*Blacks Law Dictionary*, 2007]

**PORTSPORTS** a social/sports club based in Portland, Maine, U.S. [Net]

**POTSPOTS** places where people smoke cannabis (pot).

'The roof would make a good **potspot** eh?' [UD]

**PRINTSPRINTS** urgent runs to the office printer, especially to print personal documents before someone else sees them. [**print sprint** in UD]

**REPREP** to prep (prepare) again, particularly for surgery.

'Time and cost will be saved by eliminating the need to **reprep**.' [*Endoscopic Spine Surgery and Instrumentation*, D H Kim, et al, 2004, p174]

**RESTREST** in linguistics, an old-fashioned variant of 'restressed', compare **blest**, **undrest**, etc.

'The form mo, with close o, represents a **restrest** weak-stress form.' [Phonology of the Cilentan Dialect, L A Ondis, *Language* journal, Dec 1934 (Net)]

**RETTETERETTE** a female flax retter (soaker), compare **usherette**, **farmerette**, etc.

**RETRET** rehandling of a subject (obsolete). [OED]

**SEMIASEMIA** partial asemia, loss of power to express, or understand, symbols or signs of thought, compare **semicoma**, **semi-aphasia**.

**TABLETABLE** able to be produced in tablet form.

'**Tabletable** formulations and tablets produced therefrom.' [[www.freepatentsonline.com](http://www.freepatentsonline.com), 2008 (Net)]

**TICKSTICKS** sticks used to keep a musical rhythm.

'Clapsticks, or **ticksticks**, are being used by didgeridoo players to keep a certain rhythm.'

[[dragonworshipper.googlepages.com](http://dragonworshipper.googlepages.com), Behind the scenes: Percussion, 2008 (Net)]

**TIESTIES** pl. of **tiestie**, variant of 'teistie', the black guillemot (bird). [OED]

**TONESTONES** supposedly, 'sensing' stones (e.g. in a cemetery).

'She found a **tonestone** and sat on it.' [[www.macabremenace.com](http://www.macabremenace.com), Macabre Daze -Not Daddy's Little girl, 11 dec 2007 (Net)]

**TOPSPOTS** devices attached to the magnetic fuel level indicators in aircraft fuel tanks.

'This AD [airworthiness directive] results from several in-service incidents of wear and detachment of **topstops** from the magnetic fuel level indicators.' [[www.scribd.com](http://www.scribd.com), U.S.

White House Federal Register: 06-2850, 27 Mar 2006 (Net)]

**TRIATRIA** pl. of **triatrium**, as in the rare condition 'cor **triatrium**', where a person has 'triatrial heart', with three atrial chambers. (tri + atria, pl. of 'atrium')

**TRIKESTRIKES** instances of being hit by children riding tricycles, compare **birdstrikes**.

**TUFFSTUFFS** slang for **Tuff Stuff** brand tape recorders, properly two words, but used generically in the citation.

'Haven't you noticed all the scholkids with their **tuffstuffs**, cardboard boxes and cans of Mr. Sheen. [*Stealth Magazine*, [www.stealthmag.com](http://www.stealthmag.com), 9 Jun 2006 (Net)]

**UNDERSUNDERS** separates or breaks insufficiently.

**UNGUNG** in '**ungung** ho', not gung ho, not keen or enthusiastic.

'The present leadership seem to be very **ungung**-ho to work with Malaysia.'

[www.geocities.com, Bridging the causeway gap, 2008 (Net)]

**UNSUNS** removes or blocks out the sun. [Web2]

**UPPERSUPPERS** ones who dine at the 'top table'; meals served there, or in the 'upper berth' on a ship or train.

'**UPPERSUPPER** a meal served to persons in the upper berths of combination

dining/sleeping cars [on a train], perhaps.' [*The American Mathematical Weekly*, Jun-Jul 1988, Letters to the Editor]

**UPSUPS** sups up, consumes. [Web2]

**VERVER** one who displays 'verve'.

**WINGSWINGS** mechanisms for fitting the wings into, on the fuselage of model swingwing jets.

'I had to sand channels in them for the push rods for the **wingswing**.' [myhobbycity.com, F-14 Tomcat (from movie Top Gun), 28 may 2008 (Net)]

**WORDSWORDS** words used as weapons.

'No disciplines without disciples somewhere crossing their **wordswords** and cutting off each other's ears.' [*Open Book/Livre Ouvert*, Geoffrey Bennington, 2004, p12]

**XIANXIAN** of or relating to the town of Xianxi, China.

**YISHYISH** somewhat **yishy**, perhaps a cross between 'yucky' (or 'yicky') and 'squishy' ['the girl... made a **yishy** face' (Net)], compare **squishyish** [Net quotes]